DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES OF LEPIDOPTERA FROM NEW ZEALAND.

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The following descriptions relate to new species of *Lepidoptera* which have recently come under my notice from various localities in the Dominion. Some of them are very distinct forms and of more than ordinary interest.

NOCTUIDAE.

Aletia empyrea, n. sp.

This large and handsome species was discovered by Mr. Charles E. Clarke in the Routeburn Valley at the head of Lake Wakatipu, at an altitude of about 2500 ft. above the sea-level. It has also occurred at Queenstown.

The expansion of the wings is about 2 inches. The fore wings of the male are rather bright bluish-grey with blackish markings: the basal line is distinct, strongly dentate; the first line has four strong projections; the claviform is very narrow, blackish-edged and pale centred; the orbicular is large, trapezoidal-ovate whitish; a conspicuous blackish triangular spot is situated between the orbicular and the reniform, the reniform itself being very indistinct; the second line is strongly dentate and bent outwards above the middle; there is a series of faint blackish triangular marks on the subterminal area, and the veins are irregularly marked in blackish. The hind wings are pale grey with a dark grey lunule and two cloudy-grey bands. The female is considerably paler than the male and the markings are much less distinct.

The perfect insect appears in December.

Described from specimens kindly lent to me by Mr. Clarke.

GEOMETRIDAE.

Xanthorhoe pseudostinaria, n. sp.

A single specimen of this very distinctly-marked insect was taken at Otira on the west coast of the South Island.

The expansion of the wings is $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches. The fore wings are rather broad with the apex very slightly projecting and the termen slightly bowed; *cream-coloured with bright brown markings;* there is a narrow line along the costa; a faint slightly curved line on the inner edge of the median band; a small blackish discal dot; *a straight, oblique, very strongly-marked line from near the apex to the dorsum at* $\frac{3}{4}$, and a very faint wavy subterminal line; a dark brown terminal line is situated below the apex, where the cilia are also dark brown. *The hind wings are cream-coloured with a conspicuous brown line across the middle* and very faint traces of one basal and two subterminal lines. Except as above indicated the cilia of all the wings are cream-coloured.

The perfect insect appears in December and frequents forest.

GRACILARIADAE.

Parectopa zorionella, n. sp.

This very distinct species was discovered in the Botanical Gardens at Wellington.

The expansion of the wings is $\frac{3}{8}$ inch. The fore wings are elongate-oblong with the costa strongly arched; very dark brownish-black *with very vivid steely-blue reflections; there is a large semicircular silvery-white spot on the costa a little beyond the middle;* an oblique silvery-white bar beyond $\frac{3}{4}$ and two much smaller bars just before the apex; there are three minute silvery spots on the dorsum. The hind wings are dull steely-grey. The cilia of the fore wings are black, of the hind wings dark grey tinged with bronze towards the body.

The perfect insect appears in November and is found amongst light scrub.

TINEIDAE.

Titanomis tetragona, n. sp.

With the exception of the extremely rare *Titanomis sisyrota* this handsome insect is the largest Tineid at present known in New Zealand. It was discovered on Mount Egmont in January 1917 at an altitude of about 3000 feet above the sea-level.

The expansion of the wings of the male is fully $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The fore wings are oblong with the costa strongly arched; *deep purplish-brown obscurely mottled with darker and with faint bronzy reflections;* there is a large irregular patch of paler scales in the disc near the base; *a large dull whitish triangular patch on the tornus, its apex almost reaching the costa;* this patch is thickly streaked with grey; the terminal area is clouded with warm purplish-brown; *there is a very conspicuous, almost square, pinkish-ochreous blotch on the costa immediately before the apex.* The hind wings are pale ochreous very heavily dappled with grey. All the cilia are ochreous with pale greyish-brown basal line and tips. The head is ochreous, the thorax pale purplish-brown and the abdomen dark greyish-ochreous.

The perfect insect appears in January and may be looked for in sub-alpine forests. It is attracted by light.

Described from the unique specimen kindly lent to me by Mr. Morris N. Watt.

MICROPTERYGIDAE.

Sabatinca aurella, n. sp.

This very brilliantly-coloured little insect was discovered by Mr. R. M. Sunley on the Tararua Mountains at an elevation of about 3000 ft. above the sea-level.

The expansion of the wings is $\frac{7}{16}$ inch. The fore wings, which have the costa very abruptly arched at the base and the termen very oblique, *are bright golden-ochreous with the veins well marked and deeply depressed; there is a large crimson-orange-metallic basal patch, purple on the costa; a curved transverse band at about $\frac{1}{3}$ deep crimson-purple-metallic on the costa, metallic-blue below the middle, and crimson on the dorsum; another narrower band at about $\frac{1}{2}$, deep purple on the costa, thence brilliant metallic-blue to the dorsum; two long costal bars beyond this, purple on the costa, pale metallic-blue towards the disc; an irregular confluent series of crimson and metallic-blue spots on the termen;* the cilia are golden-ochreous. The hind wings are blackish with strong purple reflections. The head and thorax are clothed with long rusty-orange hairs. The abdomen is blackish. The antennae are orange, black towards the apex.

Hillview, Karori,
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On the Introduction of Insect Aliens to the British Islands.—I see that Mr. W. E. Sharp (in the January number of this Magazine) takes me to task for expressing approval of the possible establishment in these islands of two exotic butterflies. As Mr. Sharp invites the opinion of biologists on the subject, I am tempted to state my views more fully. I must confess that, as a student of biology, I am in sympathy with his argument, and have myself experienced annoyance at certain heedless interferences with Nature's methods of populating a country. And yet there is another side of me (let us call it the æsthetic side) that would lead me to welcome the introduction of any object of beauty that might add to the interest and pleasure of the lives, not of entomologists only, but of the general community. I wonder if biologists (and entomologists in particular), constituting—as they do—such a minute percentage of the population of the world, are justified in setting their own inconvenience (for it is little more) against the harmless gratification of the aesthetic instincts of the majority. I do not wish for a moment to underrate the value of work that has been and is being effected by biologists all the world over, but are we not, perhaps, in danger of taking ourselves and the importance of our particular theories a little too seriously? Mr. Sharp complains of confusions that have arisen in the study of the distribution of the flora of this country, through the constantly repeated introduction of foreign plants; yet how dull would our gardens now be but for the untiring zeal of collectors who have ransacked the world for new flowering plants to add to the beauty and interest of our surroundings. Why should not lovers of insect life be allowed some such indulgence? As an Economic Entomologist by profession, I acknowledge that indiscriminate introductions might lead (and indeed have led) to disastrous results, and must be sternly discouraged. I need only instance the case of the Gypsy-moth plague in North America. Any experiments in this direction should be under close control and subject to the strictest regulations. They ought to be first submitted to some responsible